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Chapter 88

Spring Arrives

SFX: BOHN DONN DOGASUH

SFX: FURUFURU (SHAKING)
WA
Ha...
HA WA WA WA!
Tuna and Half-Boiled Egg Macaroni Salad
Eggplant Meat Gratin Dripping With Cheese
Mini Onigiri & Sweet Pickled Daikon
Mountain of Juicy Deep-Fried Ham
Garlic Toast
SFX: KONGARI (CRISPY) JUWAWAAAH HOKAHOKAA (SIZZLE)

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HINA-CHAN, CONGRATULATIONS ON PASSING!!
Okay, dig in, everyone!!
This is a celebration, so I got kind of excited and deep fried 2 kilograms of chicken.
Cause today, 'fried foods are drinks'!!
T-TWO KILOS?! YOU CALL THAT 'DRINKS'?!
Akari, hold on a sec!
And a mountain of macaroni salad!! And so much tuna and half-boiled eggs—!!
And the eggplant gratin!! I love it!! So much cheeeese!!
It's-It's a mountain of fried food!
So, what do you think, Hina? I got all your favorites !!
HOHOHO
HAF HAF
AH! It's sizzling hot!
It's so delicious !!
Mountain
Momo is gonna grow up, tooo!
Thank you, Momo!
Congratulations, Hina-chan!

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You're still only 23!!

AKARI! NO! BAD!!

TWIRL

I can't believe it...

It happened so fast ...

I'm really getting old.

Little Hina is already a high schooler ...

SFX: SUNN BISHIIH

But this is really all thanks to Rei-chaaan!

Because Rei-chan showed me how to do math.

I figured out lots of enigmas.

Like proof problems!!

AFTER REI-CHAN STARTED REVIEWING MATH WITH HER, HER AVERAGE MATH SCORES WENT UP NEARLY 30 POINTS!

And she had been so bad at math before ...

THAT'S REALLY SOMETHIN', KID!!

SHOGI PLAYERS REALLY ARE PRETTY BRIGHT, AIN'T THEY?

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU REI-KUN, TOO?

Do you want more? Go ahead, don't be bashful.

Mhm.

Huh?

Uh,

thank you very much.

HEAVY

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The Night Before the Exams (Flashback)

Y-YOU LEFT THE TWO OF THEM ALONE IN THE HOUSE?

HEEE!?

SFX: GATAH

KIRIYAMA-KUN, HE'S THAT BOY THAT'S OVER ALL THE TIME, ISN'T HE?

HOW OLD IS HE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT?! 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL?!

YOU LEFT A GIRL IN THE 3RD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL AND A BOY IN THE 2ND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL ALONE THIS LATE AT NIGHT?!

SFX: NIKKORI (GRIN)

WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF SOMETHING HAPPENS?!

IF THERE'S SOME MISTAKE, THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE, WON'T IT?!!

You have to go back there right now!!

W... what if something happens to Hina ?!

IT'S OKAY, AUNTIE. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.

OKAY? HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!!

Caaalm down...

THIS IS KIRI-YAMA-KUN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

(^_^)

T/N: THE WORDS "YOUNG ANIMAL" ARE WRITTEN OVER THE WORDS "HIGH SCHOOL BOY". IT'S ALSO A REFERENCE TO THE MAGAZINE THIS MANGA RUNS IN.

— And the day after that (Flashback #2)
HEY, DAD, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I KNOW YOU'RE SAYING HE'S A GOOD KID AND HE'S JUST GOING TO TEACH HER MATH,
BUT CAN YOU REALLY HAVE A YOUNG ANIMAL LIKE THAT ALWAYS COMING IN AND OUT OF A HOUSE WITH ONLY WOMEN?!
GEEZ, WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT WILL WE DO IF SOME-THING HAPPENS TO HINA?!

SFX: PATA PATA (WAVE)

NOT ONLY AKARI, BUT DAD, TOO?!!
THEY'RE TRUSTING A 2ND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL BOY THIS MUCH...?! JUST HOW MUCH OF A SAFE BET IS THIS KID?
I'M STARTING TO FEAR FOR THE FUTURE. JUST WHAT ARE BOYS OF THIS GENERATION LIKE?!!
FEELS THE SAME WAY
Won't you eat some-thing?
Have this! And this!!
I really do want to thank yoooou!!
T-Thank you very much

SFX: GUI GUI

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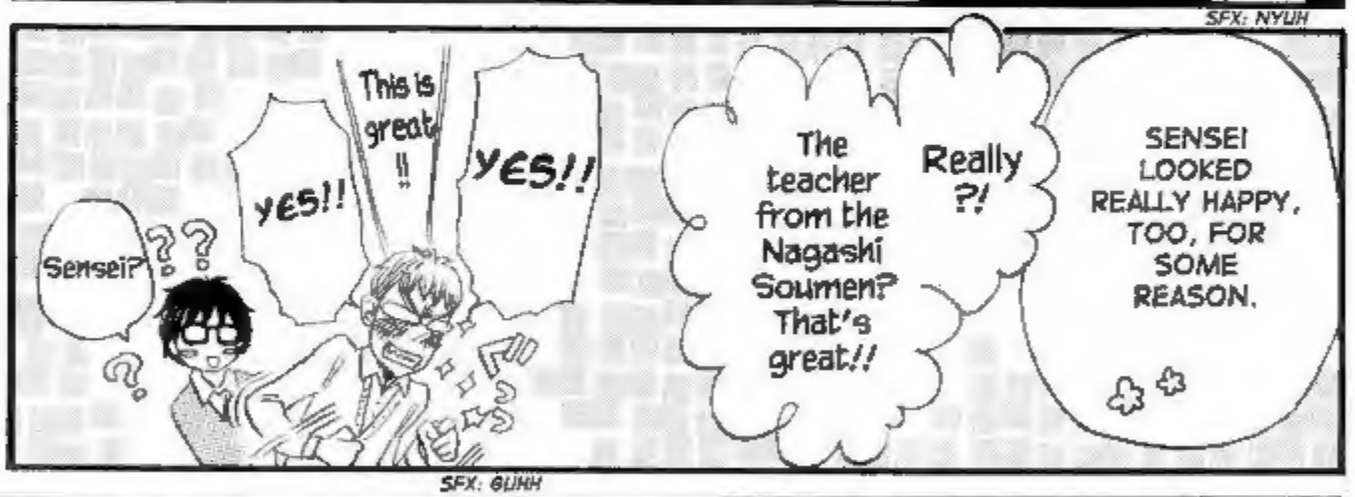
REI-CHAN, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL!
SO AM I.
NOGUCHI-SENPAI AND THE REST OF THE SHOUKA CLUB ARE ALL GRADUATING
SO IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD JOIN, HINA.
NYAAA
Pet meee! Pet meee! Pet me right nooooow!
NYAAA
SFX: NYUH


SENSEI LOOKED REALLY HAPPY, TOO, FOR SOME REASON.
Really ?!
The teacher from the Nagashi Soumen? That's great!!
YES!!
This is great !!
YES!!
Sensei?
SFX: GUHH

I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, REI-CHAN.
YOU DID SO MUCH WORK...
YOU CAME A BUNCH OF TIMES EVERY WEEK...

IT'S OKAY.

I WAS ABLE TO STUDY WHILE I WAS HERE.

And I realized something awful.

If I'd gotten bad results after that, she'd feel like was 'her fault'.

Hina, it's okay!!

He said it just like that ...

YES. UNLESS SOMETHING REALLY CRAZY HAPPENS ...

Dang, this guy's scary!!

In that world, the kid's scary like a demon!!

KID, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER 2 OR SO RANKED MATCHES IN THIS PERIOD, RIGHT?

AH, YES!

I HAVE 8 WINS RIGHT NOW.

SO YOU'RE GONNA RISE IN CLASS? TO B2?

E-EIGHT WINS IN A ROW?!

HUH ?!

That's a different way of facing things than I've done up till now...

In each and every match, I played every bit as carefully as I could.

I can't stand the idea

of her being in trouble somewhere with me not knowing.

RISE IN CLASS?

THAT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?

A DEMON? REI-CHAN?

Umm.. Uh..

THAT'S GREAT!

Hina-chan, more juice, pleeeease!

don't like it when she cries or she's worried.

—I

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I had to make sure she got accepted.
So when I heard she'd be within arm's reach of me,
— Until then,
I thought that whether I was 'right' or 'wrong
was something that other people had to decide for me, like in a trial.
But that day,

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when I heard her say 'What I did wasn't wrong,'

and saw her over-whelmed with anxiety,

but never letting go

of the firm grasp she had on the helm of her heart,

I

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saw a
light
that I
didn't
have in
me.
Without
a doubt
a part
of me
Yeah.

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REI.
DAD...
I WON TODAY, SO I JUST MANAGED TO AVOID GETTING A DEMOTION POINT.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE IN B2 AGAIN THIS PERIOD.

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Chapter 88 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 1

REGARDING FATHER AND CHILD SHOGI PLAYERS

That shot of Kiriyama-kun and his dad was nice, wasn't it? A young player winning and rising in rank, and a veteran player staving off a demotion point and standing firm, and both of them standing together in B-2 the next period. Situations like this are pretty common in the shogi world. But in reality, usually they're not father and son like in the manga. There are surprisingly few parent and child pairs in the shogi world.

Even without looking at any documents, I can confidently say that there are few enough that you could count them on your fingers. To start off, a long time ago there was a major father-son pair. Kimura Yoshio, the 14th Meijin, and his son, Kimura Yoshinori 9-dan. I need not even point out that the father was a great meijin. And it wouldn't be going too far to say that modern shogi began with him. Yoshinori 9-dan was also an excellent shogi player that rose to A-class. Also, despite having such a remarkable track record, he would call himself a weak player, and he was a wondrous author (?) that created 'How the Weak Defeat the Strong'.

Another was the father-son pair from the southeast, Itaya Shirou 9-dan and Itaya Susumu 9-dan. They were also great fellow shogi players that both made it to Class A. However, Itaya Susumu unfortunately passed away at the young age of 47 in 1988.

Now we'll jump right to modern times. Incredibly, not one pair a generation apart appeared in the shogi world for nearly 50 years. There was a big commotion when the father-son pair Nishikawa Keiji 7-dan and Nishikawa Kazuhiro 4-dan first came to be.

All that's left after that is situations when there are fathers playing in the men's division and their daughters playing in the women's shogi division. First there's Itou Hatasu 7-dan and Itou Asuka women's 1-dan. Hatasu 7-dan is famous for being a creator of mating shogi puzzles. Asuka-san is currently retired from being a shogi player and is pouring her time into spreading sh ogi.

And finally, there's the newly-formed fresh couple (?) Iino Kenji 7-dan and IIno Ai Women's 3-dan father-daughter couple. Ai-san just turned pro this year and as the daughter of the popular Kenji 7-dan, she had a warm welcome into the pros from fellow players. That's all, 5 pairs. You could say that's very few, especially if you compare it to the oft-associated world of Go. The world of Go has I think dozens of players of the same family one or two generations apart. It really is odd. (Rankings are current as of September 2013)

◀ These two, father and son players, will both be in Class B Group 2 next period.

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3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 9

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